

The Sun

WILLIAM M. LEPPAN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1902.

Subscriptions by Mail—Postpaid.
 DAILY, Per Month \$0.50
 DAILY, Per Year 6.00
 SUNDAY, Per Year 2.00
 DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year 8.00
 DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month 70
 Postage to foreign countries added

THE SUN, NEW YORK CITY.

Paris—Kloque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and
Kloque No. 10, boulevard des Capucines.If our friends who have no time measure up
for publication will to have opportunity to return
them in all cases send similar for that purpose.

The Same Old Apathy.

In the language of our ancient and wise friend, The Old Farmers' Almanac, "about this time look out for 'anarchy, And divers observers are looking out for R., discovering and making a note of it. Apathy in New England. Political meetings there very 'slim.' Apathy in Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Michigan, California and everywhere. Brass bands and organists pump in vain. The people are deaf to them. Apathy reigns. So newspaper after newspaper tells us and sage after sage says a solemn poll."

Now this same apathy has "prevailed" in about every election that we remember. At least, it has been said to prevail. If the voters don't get red in the face with their howlings, talk or yell politics all their afternoons and evenings and make a monstrous hullabaloo all the time, then sainthood calls them cold and apathetic. But for the most part, voters have put away childish things. They have got something else to do than to march and bawl. They can do their full political duty without making a mighty bother about it. The newspapers give them as much politics as is needed for human nature's daily food. Political meetings and small-bore political spouters are an old story. Few are the speakers who stir intellectual curiosity. Idleness, habit, duty to the "organization," send men to the political meetings where no famous speakers are to appear. There is much of the cut-and-dried about these affairs. The "stomper" or hired maker of applause is not unknown. One in Ohio TOM JOHNSON uses the old trick of paying men to stand up in his circus tent and ask him questions and be overwhelmed by his triumphant replies.

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Apathy and Ritualism.

We suggested yesterday that Mr. BALFOUR might find in the bitter opposition to the growing party of Ritualists manifested at the recent Liverpool meeting of the Church Association a very serious obstacle in the way of the passage of his Education bill. It seems from news since received from England that already steps have been taken to organize this opposition on a large scale. At a meeting held in London on Friday evening, presided over by the Earl of PORTSMOUTH, a project was perfected for the creation in every constituency of an organization to be known as the "Protestant Thousand," for the purpose of arousing and concentrating popular sentiment against extreme Ritualism.

This year there is about the usual amount of piping, and perhaps not much more than the customary amount of refusals to dance. Business is so brisk that politics are a little dull. Folks seem satisfied, can't be frightened and there is nothing in particular to tighten them with. In this State the large registration is proof sufficient that there is no real want of interest. The jump of the New York Democrats into the Socialist briar bush has had its effect. The registration shows that, No doubt the New York voters are "apathetic." That is, they are calm and they know what they are about. They are not in raptures or agonies, but they mean business.

Mr. Carnegie's Proposal.

It was a counsel of perfection rather than a practicable scheme that Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE propounded on the occasion of his installation as Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University. He appealed to the Emperor WILLIAM II to use his influence to bring about a federation of Europe which should combine the advantages of a political and an industrial union.

There is, no doubt, a good deal of ground for Mr. CARNEGIE's assertion that, if Europe remains divided among a number of States, politically and commercially independent, it will find competition with the United States of America in the manufacturing field increasingly difficult. That is the position which was taken some time ago by the Austrian statesman Count GÖTCZOWSKI. The latter prophesied that, soon or late, European countries would have to enter into a customs union for the purpose of retaining their share of the markets of the world, already seriously threatened by the invasion of American products.

National tariffs, he said, would prove inadequate safeguards, and the only effective defence against the prospective ability of the American producer to undersell his European competitors even in their own markets, would be an international agreement practically shutting out American manufacturers from the whole of Europe. We have no doubt that Count GÖTCZOWSKI's theory concurs with Mr. CARNEGIE's in believing that, unless the European Powers agree to something of the kind, the utmost to which they can look forward is the close of the twentieth century is a "revolution, like so many劫難, around a giant Gulliver, the American Union, destined at no distant epoch to embrace two hundred million English-speaking people, and capable of supplying most of the wants of the world."

Equally well founded is another of Mr. CARNEGIE's postulates, namely, that

Europe cannot continue indefinitely increasing its armaments. The truth of this averment is generally held to have been demonstrated conclusively by M. DE BLOCH. The conscriptive system is in Europe a drag upon industrial development to which the United States are not subjected. Among European investors, moreover, the spirit of enterprise is chilled and haunted by the knowledge that an explosion must come. For Europe, indeed, there is no hope of escape from the economical evils of the conscriptive system, except through a tremendous cataclysm which shall extinguish boundaries, efface nationalities and unite the many European sovereignities under a single head.

It is by force alone, however, and not by the voluntary agreement which Mr. CARNEGIE advocates, that the political and commercial unity of Europe can be brought about. It is because this is evident to the European people that they decline to take Mr. CARNEGIE's suggestion seriously. For some years the statesmen of Austria and Hungary have been engaged in an effort, thus far futile, to effect a fiscal and commercial combination between the two halves of the Hapsburg monarchy. The project of a customs union between the German Empire and the Austro-Hungarian realm, which by visionaries was at one time mooted, has been long since relegated to the limbo of impossibilities. Almost inconceivable would be a customs union between France and Germany, or between Germany and Russia. The Emperor WILLIAM II is much too careful of his personal dignity to expose himself to the rebuff which, as he knows, his proposal of an international *Zollverein* would receive at Paris or at Petersburg. It is as clear to the present German Sovereign as it was to the first NAPOLEON that there will never be a customs union embracing the whole of Europe until the dream of reviving the Roman Empire shall have been realized.

But it may be said, though we admit that a voluntary union, whether political or commercial, of Continental Europe is unattainable, might not the British Empire, if it accepted political consolidation and established a *Zollverein* between its members, hope to make head against the competition of the United States? Mr. CARNEGIE spoke by the card when he made his audience at St. Andrew's look for no comfort in that direction. It is true, as he said, that it is a physical impossibility for Great Britain to produce material things rivaling in quantity those produced in countries so large as the United States and Russia nor would a union of the British Empire sensibly change the situation, inasmuch as neither Canada nor Australia gives promise of much increase in population or in the output of manufactures. All hope, therefore, of material ascendancy in the future even for the British Empire must, he concluded, be abandoned. Mr. CARNEGIE, indeed, warned his hearers that they had a heroic struggle before them if they meant to prevent Germany from ousting Great Britain from even the second place among the purveyors of manufactures to the world.

On the whole, it was a Jeremiad rather than a paean which was uttered by the new Lord Rector of St. Andrew's. JEREMIAH, however, spoke the truth.

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